

What is claimed is:

1. An image data distribution system wherein groups of destinations are formed of members selected from among a plurality of image communication apparatuses capable of sending and receiving image, wherein an image server has information on destination groups memorized on a storage memory thereon and wherein, when the image server receives a request for distribution of image data together with destination information through a network from one of the image communication apparatuses, the image data will be sent out to the respective members of the destination group specified by the destination information, said system comprising:

input manipulation means, provided in each image communication apparatus, which can request the image server to make a registration with a group and can specify one of all the destination group names sent back from the image server, and

distribution managing means, provided on the side of the image server, which sends to the image communication apparatus all the distribution destination group names according to the request for group registration from the image communication apparatus and which, when a distribution destination group is specified by the image communication apparatus, registers the image communication apparatus with the specified distribution destination group.

2. The image data distribution system as defined in claim 1 wherein said image communication apparatus is a digital multifunction apparatus.

3. The image data distribution system as defined in claim 2 wherein said digital multifunction apparatus is provided with image input means for reading a document and sends image data from said image

input means to the image server.

4. The image data distribution system as defined in claim 2 wherein said digital multifunction apparatus is provided with storage means for storing image data and sends image data from said storage means to the image server.

5. The image data distribution system as defined in claim 2 wherein said digital multifunction apparatus is provided with facsimile transmit-receive means and sends image data from said facsimile transmit-receive means to the image server.

A 6. The image data distribution system as defined in ~~any of claims 2 to 5~~ <sup>Claim 2</sup> wherein said digital multifunction apparatus is provided with image output means and prints image data from the image server by said image output means.

7. The image data distribution system as defined in claim 1 wherein said image communication apparatus is a personal computer.

8. The image data distribution system as defined in claim 7 wherein said personal computer is provided with a document preparation software and sends image data prepared by said document preparation software to the image server.

9. The image data distribution system as defined in claim 7 wherein said personal computer is provided with storage means for storing image data and sends image data from said storage means to the image server.

10. The image data distribution system as defined in claim 9 wherein said personal computer is provided with facsimile transmit-receive

means and sends image data from said facsimile transmit-receive means to the image server

11. The image data distribution system as defined in any of claims 7 to 10 wherein said personal computer prints out image data from the image server by a printing apparatus connected to said personal computer directly or via the network

12. An image data distribution method wherein groups of destinations are formed of members selected from among a plurality of image communication apparatuses capable of sending and receiving image, wherein an image server has information on destination group memorized on a storage memory thereon and wherein, when the image server receives a request for distribution of image data together with destination information through the network from one of the image communication apparatuses, the image data will be sent out to the respective members of the destination group specified by the destination information, said method comprising:

sending all the destination group names to said image communication apparatus when a request for registration with group is made from the input manipulation means provided in the image communication apparatus, and

registering said image communication apparatus with a specified distribution destination group when the distribution destination group is specified by said the image communication apparatus.